

# Program Brief

## **“CELEBRATING EARTH DAY 2004”**

**Digital Video Conference with  
Jim JARVIS**

and students from Thomas Jefferson High School for  
Science and Technology

April 28, 2004

Background information provided by the  
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## Jim Jarvis

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST)

BA University of California, Berkeley, earth sciences

MS George Washington University, engineering

US Army engineer officer for 23 years (assignments in Vietnam, Panama, Germany, Netherlands, Georgia, Kansas, & Pentagon)

Science teacher for 14 years (physics, earth sciences, chair of science department for 9 years)

Jim Jarvis currently teaches physics and geosystems.

Geosystems is a level 2 science course for all seniors at TJHSST with biology, chemistry, and physics prerequisites that covers earth systems science using Stella computer modeling, extensive remote sensing through satellite imagery, the study of heat transfer through the atmosphere and oceans, and examination of the cycles and usages of the earth's natural resources.

<http://www.tjhsst.edu>



## Earth Day 2004

On April 22, Earth Day, the United States, too, marks its deep commitment to preserve the bounty and beauty of the earth for future generations everywhere.

Across the 9,629,091 square kilometer expanse of the United States, Americans of all ages are engaged in activities that celebrate the wonders of nature and highlight the efforts required to maintain a healthy environment. There are film festivals in Boise, Idaho and Washington, DC. Students and teachers in San Diego, California are planting trees and planning gardens. Volunteers in Jamestown, Rhode Island are cleaning shorelines. In addition, activists, business leaders, sportsmen, and government representatives like those of the California Environmental Resources Evaluation System are engaged in the kind of public discussions upon which thoughtful economic and environmental policies are founded.

It is through the sustained, combined efforts of governmental institutions, businesses, and civil society organizations as well as individual actions that America has made substantial progress in reversing the environmental degradation evident in the 1970's, while supporting the nation's extraordinary population and economic growth.

In the 34 years that have passed since U.S. senator Gaylord Nelson launched Earth Day, the United States has continued to show its ability to set, achieve and maintain high standards for environmental protection. And we have laid out ambitious new goals like the reduction of mercury emissions in energy production and ending the sale and export of illegally harvested timber around the globe.

President Bush has pledged that the United States will meet the challenge of addressing long-term global climate change by reducing the ratio of greenhouse gas emissions to economic output by 18 percent by 2012 compared to 2002.

Even as the United States faces increasingly complex challenges, we are confident that America's current three generations of environmentally-conscious citizens have the commitment, education, energy and ability to pursue the greatest good. The United States recognizes its responsibility to assist others, particularly in the developing world, to create more favorable living conditions for their citizens while ensuring judicious care of natural resources. The U.S. government has committed an unprecedented level of new resources to carry out this strategy. We are applying those resources through the networks of public, private and civic partnerships that truly promote innovation and results.

America firmly supports the expansion and diffusion of the knowledge, technologies and means to sustain earth's vital ecosystems. This includes investment in renewable energy, clean coal technologies, and the development of emission-free vehicles for use within the next ten years.

It is within our joint ability to ensure the bounty and beauty of our natural world. With the world's population expected to double in the next few generations, it is our duty to prepare today's children to make informed choices in order to sustain our earth.

## U.S. GOVERNMENT RESOURCES

### [ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND CLIMATE CHANGE](#)

Topical page from the website of the U.S. Embassy Vienna, Austria  
(<http://www.usembassy.at/en/policy/environ.htm>)

### [EarthDay.gov](#)

Portal for U.S. Government Events & Information  
(<http://www.earthday.gov/>)



### [Earth Day 2004](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
(<http://www.epa.gov/earthday/>)

### [Protecting Our Nation's Environment](#)

The White House  
(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/environment/>)



### **Bureau of International Information Programs/U.S. Department of State**

- [Climate Change](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/climate_change.html) ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/climate\\_change.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/climate_change.html))
- [Environment](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/environment.html) ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/environment.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/environment.html))
- [Bibliography revised for Earth Day 2004](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/environment/ebybib03.html)  
([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/environment/ebybib03.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/environment/ebybib03.html))
- [Energy Policy](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/energy_policy.html) ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/energy\\_policy.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/energy_policy.html))

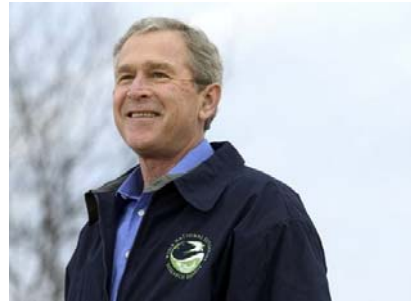


## **President Bush Announces Wetland Initiative on Earth Day**

April 22, 2004

Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve, Wells, Maine

(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/04/20040422-4.html>)



Earth Day has become a great tradition in our country. It's a day that reminds us that we must be good stewards of the land around us. That's what this day says to us. And we're lucky to live in America, because we're blessed with such unbelievable lands.

As the President, I'm fortunate to be able to travel and see a lot of our beautiful nation, whether it be from the - from Maine to the Big Sur in California or parts of the great state of Texas that are beautiful to look at, too.

The importance about Earth Day is that it reminds us that we can't take the natural wonders for granted. That's what Earth Day says to me, and I hope it says to you, as well, that we have responsibilities to the natural world to conserve that which we have and to make it even better. That's the call for Earth Day.

In the years since Earth Day was established, America has made great strides in honoring the ideal of conservation and living by high standards of stewardship. We've made tremendous progress during the last four years. I have a responsibility as the President to put people in an administration that understands the importance of conserving our natural resources and making them better.

Today I want to talk about wetlands. The old policy of wetlands was to limit the loss of wetlands. Today I'm going to announce a new policy and a new goal for our country: Instead of just limiting our losses, we will expand the wetlands of America.

- **[Fact Sheet about Wetlands Initiative](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/04/20040422-1.html)**  
(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/04/20040422-1.html>)
- **[President Bush Discusses Earth Day, National Volunteer Week in FL](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/04/20040423-8.html)**  
23 April 2004  
Rockery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Naples, Florida  
(<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/04/20040423-8.html>)

## Washington File

### News from Washington

compiled by the Bureau of International Information Programs/U.S. Department of State  
(<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/products/washfile.html>)

#### "Powell Promotes Partnerships to Solve Environmental Challenges"

Secretary of State speaks at Earth Day event

**22 April 2004**

Secretary of State Colin Powell, hosting an Earth Day event at Department of State headquarters in Washington April 22, emphasized the importance of international, multi-sector partnership in addressing global environmental challenges.

Powell cited two such programs during the Bush administration. The White Water to Blue Water Partnership links governments, businesses and civil society organizations together in order to improve coastal ecosystems and ensure better watershed management practices in the wider Caribbean region, while the Congo Basin Forest Partnership establishes national networks of protected areas across Central Africa.

#### "Bangladeshi, American Students to Study, Compare Ecosystems"

Cross-cultural project to focus on Bay of Bengal, Chesapeake Bay

**22 April 2004**

Starting in fall 2004, middle school students from the Washington area and their peers at the William Carey Academy in the Chittagong region of Bangladesh will undertake a two-month study to compare and contrast the Chesapeake Bay and the Bay of Bengal from environmental, social and economic perspectives.

Announcing the "Two Bays, One World" project at the State Department on April 22, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) John Turner said the students, ages 11 through 14, will not only learn how both ecosystems affect their surroundings, but will also gain a greater understanding of each others' culture through their interaction.

#### "Blueprint for Protecting World's Oceans Put Forward"

U.S. commission unveils results of two-year study

**20 April 2004**

The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy April 20 released the most comprehensive assessment of national policies on the oceans conducted in 35 years, making dozens of recommendations to President Bush and Congress on how policies should be changed and strengthened to address the serious management and environmental problems now straining the resource.

Congress ordered the review in 2000, and the commission has delivered a 400-page report that calls on the president and the Congress to take actions it described as "critical." Recommended actions include establishing a National Ocean Council in the White House, strengthening the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and doubling funding for ocean research.

## FACT SHEETS



United States Department of Agriculture

### President Bush's FY 2005 Budget Will Continue Positive Environmental Progress

2 February 2004

Fact sheet, released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture

(<http://www.usda.gov/Newsroom/fs0054.04.html>)

The 2005 budget proposes record funding for high-priority environment and natural resource programs and emphasizes measuring performance and effectiveness by:

Proposing \$46.9 billion for high-priority environment and natural resource programs, the highest level ever requested by a President. This funding level is \$1.4 billion, or roughly 3 percent, higher than the President's 2004 budget.

Emphasizing measuring program performance and effectiveness. Based on these measures, the Administration seeks to increase funding for highly effective programs.

### Did You Know? - The U.S. Record on the Environment

December 2003

Fact sheet, released by the Bureau of International Information Programs/U.S. Department of State

(<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2003/Dec/10-627694.html>)

- Over the past three decades Republican and Democratic administrations have demonstrated strong commitment to protecting the U.S. environment.
- The nation's commitment at all levels of government has produced cleaner air, safer drinking water, and much-improved waste management.
- These improvements occurred during a time of significant growth; from 1970 to 2001, U.S. gross domestic product increased by 164 percent.
- Air pollution is down 48 percent since 1970, though the U.S. population has increased from 203 million to more than 280 million.
- A successful cap and trade program has cut power plant sulfur dioxide emissions that cause acid rain by 41 percent since 1980.
- Ninety-four percent of the nation's community water systems are meeting all health-based standards.
- Industrial toxic emissions have been halved since the mid-1980s. Virtually all hazardous waste is recycled or treated to destroy toxic pollutants or reduce the ability of those pollutants to enter the atmosphere.
- By law, all U.S. auto fuel is lead-free, greatly reducing lead contamination.
- To meet the challenge of climate change, the United States has pledged \$1.7 billion to develop hydrogen and fuel cell technologies for cars and stationary applications. Used as a fuel, hydrogen produces no pollution.

## ELECTRONIC JOURNALS

published by the Bureau of International Information Programs/U.S. Department of State



- [Shared Oceans, Shared Future](http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0404/ijge/ijge0404.htm), April 2004  
(<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0404/ijge/ijge0404.htm>)
- [Green Cities – Urban Environmental Solutions](http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0300/ijge/ijge0300.htm), March 2000  
(<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0300/ijge/ijge0300.htm>)



Earthrise as seen from Moon orbit, December 24, 1968. When Apollo 8 astronauts beamed back live television pictures of the Earth, people saw the planet as a beautiful, fragile, whole in need of protection. This was a key moment in the birth of a mainstream environmental consciousness. (NASA photo)



For information about the United States of America please visit the homepage of the U.S. Embassy Vienna, Austria at: <http://www.usembassy.at>



The page about the program “**Celebrating Earth Day 2004**” will be available at:

<http://www.usembassy.at/en/embassy/photo/earth04.htm>

Information about the services and resources of the **American Reference Center** is available at:

<http://www.usembassy.at/en/embassy/arc.htm>

